

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A bailer, comprising:

a cylindrical main body;

a valve housing with tapered sidewalls secured to a leading end of said cylindrical main body;

said cylindrical main body having a trailing end adapted to be engaged by a means for lowering said bailer into a body of liquid fluid and for raising said bailer from said body of liquid fluid;

an annular bead formed in a leading end of said tapered sidewalls of said valve housing;

a check valve disposed in said valve housing;

a bottom-emptying device having a bottom wall and tapered sidewalls mounted about the a periphery of said bottom wall;

said tapered sidewalls of said bottom-emptying device overlying the tapered sidewalls of said valve housing when said valve housing is fully received within said bottom-emptying device;

an annular groove formed in an interior surface of said tapered sidewalls of said bottom-emptying device, said annular groove interlocking with said annular bead when said valve housing is fully received within said bottom-emptying device so that a user may release said bottom-emptying device while waiting for liquid fluid to flow from said bailer;

an aperture formed in said bottom wall;

a downspout depending from said bottom wall, said downspout having a lumen in fluid communication with said aperture;

a peg mounted in upstanding relation to said bottom wall, said peg being positioned adjacent said aperture;

whereby said peg unseats said check valve so that liquid fluid within said bailer flows through said downspout when said tapered sidewalls of said leading end are received within the tapered sidewalls of said bottom-emptying device.

2. (currently amended) The bailer of claim 1, further comprising:

said peg having a truncate extent and having utility with a said bailer having a check valve positioned at a leading end of said valve housing.

3. (currently amended) The bailer of claim 1, further comprising:

said peg having an elongate extent and having utility with a said bailer having a check valve positioned in recessed relation to a leading end of said valve housing.

4. (original) The bailer of claim 1, further comprising:

said downspout having a predetermined diameter adapted to guide liquid into a wide-mouth container.

5. (original) The bailer of claim 1, further comprising:

said downspout having a predetermined diameter adapted to guide liquid into a vial.

6. (original) The bailer of claim 2, further comprising:

said downspout having a predetermined diameter adapted to guide liquid into a wide-mouth container.

7. (original) The bailer of claim 2, further comprising:

said downspout having a predetermined diameter adapted to guide liquid into a vial.

8. (original) The bailer of claim 3, further comprising:

said downspout having a predetermined diameter adapted to guide liquid into a wide-mouth container.

9. (original) The bailer of claim 3, further comprising:

said downspout having a predetermined diameter adapted to guide liquid into a vial.